Rihand STPS St. II (2x500 MW) in Central Sector and ParichhaTPS Extension (2x210 MW) in State Sector are under execution and scheduled for commissioning in the Tenth Plan.

No power plant is scheduled to be commissioned in Uttar Pradesh in 2003-04.

Availability of power by Bihar

†2278. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of power availability in Bihar;

(b) the extent of help provided by Government during the last three years for rural electrification; and

(c) the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During February, 2003, the power supply position in the State of Bihar was as under:

Peak (MW)		Energy (MU)	
Peak Demand	926	Requirement	510
Peak Met	748	Availability	414
Shortage	178	Shortage	96
% Shortage	19.2	% Shortage	18.8

(b) Govenrment of India have made the following fund allocation for the State of Bihar to carry out rural electrification works during the last three years:

i. Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)

Year	Allocation
2000-01	Rs. 37.67 Crores including Jharkhand State
2000-02	Rs. 37.67 Crores including Jharkhand State
2002-03	Rs. 68.00 Crores Bihar State exclusively

ii. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

From the year 2001 -02. Rural Electrification has been included under PMGY.

Year	Allocation
2001-02	Rs. 24.579 Crores.
2002-03	Rs. 241.730 crores for all six components of PMGY including Rural Electrification.

(c)The Planning Commission have made an allocation of Rs. 2747.00 crores for all the six components of PMGY including rural electrification, as Additional Central Assistance for the year 2002-03. Under the revised guidelines of PMGY formulated by the Planning Commission, the States would have flexibility to decide the interse allocation of ACA among the six PMGY sectors as per their own plan priorities and discretion.The Planning Commission have made a budget provision of Rs. 600 crore as ACA for rural electrification under Minimum Needs Programme for 2002-03. An amount of Rs. 300 crores has been released as the first instalment (50%) under this programme in September, 2002.The Government have announced a new interest subsidy scheme called the 'Accelerated Rural Electrification Programme' in the budget for the year 2002-03 with a provision of Rs. 164 crores. In addition to this, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have formulated new schemes for electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets at lower rate of interest. The States have been requested to utilize these funds judiciously and in an effective manner so that the national goal for complete electrification of villages by 2007 could be achieved.

Privatisation of power distribution

†2279. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that responsibility for distribution of power has been entrusted to private sector agencies in certain States of the country under power reform programme;

(b) if so, the names of those States;

(c) whether the quantitative availability of electricity was increased

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.